

CO/SA, Mr. Robert Nooter
D/EAD, Mr. Willard Meinecke
Thru : SA/IR/MGT, Mr. Sam Thornburg
SA/IR/RD, Ogden Williams

January 14, 1972

Request for Travel Authorization

The East Asia Interagency Working Group has now approved narcotics action plans for all concerned East Asia countries, (with the Vietnam cable now pending clearance or revision by AID/VN). The Working Group is therefore suspending its regular bi-weekly meetings and will meet only on an as needed basis.

The most useful service I could therefore now render would be to assist certain posts to accomplish the next phase, namely to mount specific funded projects. The posts particularly concerned in this regard are Manila and Bangkok. I would propose to visit these posts for approximately one week each, and would expect to accomplish the preparations of specific narcotics projects. Within the guidelines already approved by the EA Working Group and the country desks, and pursuant to the availability of funds as stated by Mr. Breecher's office. I would also briefly visit Vientiane where specific questions are not yet resolved, and Saigon, largely for informational purposes.

Upon return ~~from~~ the field I would immediately be in a position to prepare the EA/VN Congressional presentation material on narcotics. I believe it is important to be able to show on-going projects, reflecting the urgent concerns expressed by committees of the Congress to Mr. O'Connor during the last presentations in the spring of 1971. The field trip would thus have a two-fold purpose at this time. If for any reason it was felt necessary to defer approval until Mr. O'Connor's return, this would not unduly disrupt the timing of the trip, although several weeks of forward momentum would be lost.

Approval _____

Disapproval _____

Date _____